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Title: Need to provide grants to the Government of West Bengal to undertake repair work of the damaged embankments in the Sunderbans.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): Sir, the embankments of river in Sunderbans measuring 3,500 kilometres have been dangerously eroded, and damaged at 66 points at the beginning of the monsoon this year, resulting in damage to crops and contamination of sources of sweet water with saline water affecting South 24 Parganas and portion of North 24 Parganas district. The existence of the Royal Bengal Tigers is also at stake if no adequate measure is taken to protect the embankments in time.

In order to protect the life and property of the human population, natural forest and the living creatures of the Sunderbans, the Government of West Bengal is doing some repair work of the embankments with their limited sources, but that is much inadequate to cope with the grave situation in the area. The State Government, therefore, had urged the Central Government to sanction a sum of rupees ninety crore fourteen lakh for the construction of the embankment in the Sunderbans, but the money has not been sanctioned as yet.

It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government should come forward and sanction the money prayed by the State Government to protect the life and forest of Sunderbans.